(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government to examine the feasibility of setting up a passenger car plant in the port cities of Visakhapatnam or Kakinada; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request has been received from Andhra Pradesh Government for setting up of a passenger car plant by M/s. Maruti Udyog Limited (MUL) in the port cities of Visakhapatnam or Kakinada. Since MUL is a non-Government Company and a view on the location of the plant is therefore to be taken by MUL Board of Directors; the matter has been referred to MUL.

Supply of Rice and Wheat to the PDS Benefidaries.Bdow the Poverty Line at a Highly subsidised Price

1668. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI PARAS CHALIHA

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided that the "PDS beneficiaries below the poverty line" would be provided rice and wheat at SO ger cent of the issue price as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated die* 21st November, 1996.

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the definition of "beneficiaries below the poverty tine" from income point of view;

(c) whether it is a fact that the above scheme would cost the Centre nearly Rs. 1,000 crore; and

(d) if so, by when the new scheme is likely to be implemented and whether State Governments are also required to make any countribution financially in respect of existing PDS in the States?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AN1 MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLK DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRy PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The issu of streamlining the Public Distributio System witii focus on the poor by provi< ine rice and wheat at half the norm; issue price to the population living belo the poverty line is under consideration < the Government.

Trend of GEM and Jewellery Export!

1669. SHRI SUNDER SING] BHANDARI: Will the Minister of CON MERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the export figure for gem an jewellery for the last three years;

(b) whether Government have *e:* amined the reasons for the downwai trend in export of these items;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the hike in the interei rate on post-shipment credit and routir of import documents through banks hav been factors affective the growth; and

(e) if so, Government's strategy t deal with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF TH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHE BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) T* export figures for gems and jewellery ft the last three years are as follows;

(Valiie in US S Millira

ITEM	199344	1994-95	1995-'
DIAMONDS	3574.50	3937.00	4577. .
CiOLD	308.60	421.20	480.'
LERY			
OTHERS	111.60	142.20	222.:
TOTAL:	3994.70	4500.40	5275. '

SOURCE : DGa A S.

(b) and (c) There has been substanti; growth in export in this sector over tit last three years. However, recently son